

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 CU-04 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 INT-08 IO-12 COA-02

CPR-02 SMI-01 SCEM-02 COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 RSR-01 /178 W
----- 095040

O R 172303 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9889

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CARACAS 4269

EO 11652

TAGS: OVIP VE

SUBJECT: SECVISIT LA- VISIT TO VENEZUELA

SUMMARY: 22 HOUR VISIT OF SECRETARY ROGERS AND HIS PARTY TO VENEZUELA ON MAY 14-15 ENCOMPASSED SCHEDULE WHICH INCLUDED FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH PRESIDENT CALDERA, FOREIGN MINISTER CALVANI, AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS OF VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT. VENEZUELAN NATIONALISM WAS VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE, BUT ATMOSPHERE WAS FRIENDLY. FROM PUBLIC AFFAIRS POINT OF VIEW, VISIT WAS GREAT SUCCESS, AND STUDENT DISTURBANCE IN CARACAS HAD LITTLE IMPACT ON THE VISIT. END SUMMARY

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1. SECRETARY AND HIS PARTY ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER 9:00 PM ON MAY 14 AT MAIQUETIA AIRPORT, WHERE THEY WERE MET BY FOREIGN MINISTER CALVANI, OFFICIALS OF THE OFFICE OF PROTOCOL, AMBASSADOR MCCLINTOCK AND HIS WIFE, EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND THEIR WIVES, AND OCAI PRESS CORPS. AFTER DELIVERING HIS ARRIVAL STATEMENT SECRETARY AND HIS PARTY PROCEEDED BY CAR TO CARACAS.

2. THE BUSY DAY OF MAY 15 BEGAN WITH WREATH- LAYING CEREMONY AT TOMB OF SIMON BOLIVER IN NATIONAL PANTHEON AT 10:15 AM, AFTER WHICH THE SECRETARY PAID COURTESY CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER CALVANI AT HIS OFFICE IN NEARBY CASA AMARILLA (FOREIGN MINISTRY).

3. FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING OF DAY BEGAN AFTER 11:00 AM AT CIRCULO MILITAR, BEGINNING OF THE MEETING HAVING BEEN DELAYED BECAUSE THE SECRETARY ASKED DR. CALVANI TO REVIEW TEXT OF SECRETARY' S FORTHCOMING LUNCHEON SPEECH. SECRETARY AND FONMIN NOT ONLY INAUGURATED DISCUSSION ON ECONOMIC ISSUES AS SCHEDULED BUT ALSO LED TWO HOURS OF DISCUSSIONS. OTHER OFFICIALS ATTENDING FOR VENEZUELA WERE MINISTER OF FINANCE LUIS ENRIQUE OBERTO, MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS HUGO PEREZ LA SALVIA, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT HERNANDEZ CARABANO, MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS JOSE CUIEL, DIRECTOR OF CORDIPLAN ANTONIO CASAS GONZALEZ, DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SECURITIES COMMISSION CARLOS EMMANUELLI, DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF EXTERNAL COMMERCE LEOPOLDO DIAZ BRUZUAL, VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US ANDRES AGUILAR, AND DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) MARCIAL PEREZ CHIRIBOGA. OTHER OFFICIALS ATTENDING FOR US WERE UNDER SECRETARY CASEY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH, COUNSELOR PETERSEN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SZABO, AMBASSADOR MCCLINTOCK, AND MEMBERS OF EMBASSY STAFF. DISCUSSIONS WERE FRANK, WITH CALVANI, PEREZ LA SALVIA, AND DIAZ BRUZUAL TAKING A DECIDEDLY NATIONALISTIC LINE IN QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS WHICH WERE MORE LIKE SPEECHES THAN INFORMAL EXCHANGES. CALVANI APPARENTLY ARRANGED FOR TWO MOST NATIONALISTIC MEMBERS OF VENEZUELA SIDE, PEREZ LA SALVIA AND DIAZ BRUZUAL, TO DOMINATE CONVERSATION AFTER HIS OPENING REMARKS, AND THEY DWELT MAINLY ON PETROLEUM AND TRADE ISSUES. WHILE SECRETARY TOOK EXCEPTION TO SOME REMARKS OF VENEZUELAN, HE INDICATED THAT HE APPRECIATED FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, WHICH WOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN US POLICY.

4. NEXT ON SCHEDULE WAS LUNCH OFFERED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO AT CONFIDENTIAL

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CIRCULO MILITAR, ATTENDED BY ABOUT 100 PERSONS. LUNCHEON SPEECHES BY CALVANI AND SECRETARY WERE TELECAST LIVE ON NATIONAL TV NETWORK. CALVANI' S SPEECH, WHICH REITERATED LINE TAKEN IN

SUBSTANTIVE

MEETING , WAS FRANKLY NATIONALISTIC IN CONTENT, IN THAT HE REITERATED THEMES SUCH AS " DEMOCRATIC NATIONALISM", " INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE, " AND " JUST" PRICES FOR RAW MATERIALS, BUT AT SAME TIME WAS DELIVERED IN A FRIENDLY AND WARM MANNER. SECRETARY RESPONDED TO CALVANI' S REMARKS, TO EFFECT THAT THE US UNDERSTANDS THE NATIONALISM OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND THEIR DESIRE TO DEVELOP ECONOMICALLY, BEFORE DELIVERING HIS PREPARED REMARKS ON BILATERAL US- VENEZUELAN RELATIONS.

5. SECRETARY REMAINED IN CIRCULO MILITAR AFTER LUNCH FOR PRESS BACKGROUNDER OF ABOUT 30 MINUTES WITH 8-10 LOCAL NEWSMEN. AMONG QUESTIONS RAISED WERE THOSE DEALING WITH DISCUSSIONS OF THE ORINOCO TAR BELT, LAW OF THE SEA, AND GENERAL US POLICY TOWARD LA.

6. AT 4:30 PM SECRETARY CALLED ON PRESIDENT CALDERA AT HIS RESIDENCE, LA CASONA, ACCOMPANIED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH AND AMBASSADOR MCCLINTOCK. ALSO REPRESENTING VENEZUELAN SIDE WERE FOREIGN MINISTER CALVANI AND AMBASSADOR AGUILAR. AGAIN DISCUSSIONS WERE FRANK, WITH PRESIDENT VOICING HIS FEELINGS ON FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES. CONVERSATIONS ENDED ON FRIENDLY NOTE, AND PRESIDENT WAS ESPECIALLY PLEASED BY GIFT TO VENEZUELA OF MILITARY UNIFORM OF GENERAL PAEZ, A VENEZUELAN INDEPENDENCE HERO, WHICH HAD BEEN DONATED BY SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION. SECRETARY ALSO PRESENTED A PLAQUE CONTAINING FIVE BASEBALLS AUTOGRAPHED BY VENEZUELAN MAJOR LEAGUERS.

7. FROM LA CASONA SECRETARY MOTORED TO NEARBY LA CARLOTA AIRPORT, WHERE HE HELD BRIEF NEWS CONFERENCE, BEFORE RECEIVING MILITARY HONORS AND DEPARTING WITH HIS PRINCIPAL ADVISERS FOR MAIQUETIA AIRPORT IN PRESIDENT CALDERA' S PLANE. OTHER MEMBERS OF SECRETARY' S PARTY TRAVELED TO MAIQUETIA IN AIR ATTACHE' S PLANE OR BY GROUND TRANSPORTATION. SECRETARY AND HIS PARTY LEFT MAIQUETIA FOR LIMA AT 7:10 PM.

8. WHILE SECRETARY WAS HOLDING HIS PRESS BACKGROUNDER AND MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT, UNDER SECRETARY CASEY, ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SZABO AND DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY STAFF

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LAB-06 SIL-01 RSR-01 /178 W
----- 095058

O R 172303 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9890

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INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 CARACAS 4269

MEMBERS, MET WITH 15 DIRECTORS OF AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT HOTEL TAMANACO. ENERGY, TRADE, AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT WERE MAIN ITEMS OF DISCUSSION.

9. MRS. ROGERS AND MRS. KUBISCH ALSO HAD BUSY DAY, VISITING "FESTIVAL DEL NINO" FOUNDATION AND "QUINTA ANAUC" COLONIAL MUSEUM IN MORNING AND "PROMOCION POPULAR" IN AFTERNOON. MRS. CALVANI OFFERED LUNCH IN HONOR OF MRS. ROGERS AT COUNTRY CLUB, AND ALSO WAS HER HOSTESS AT "PROMOCION POPULAR." MRS. MCCLINTOCK AND MRS. FRANK DEVINE, WIFE OF DCM, ACCOMPANIED MRS. ROGERS AND MRS. KUBISCH THROUGHOUT DAY.

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10 . COMMENT: FRANK, OPEN, YET FRIENDLY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WHICH CHARACTERIZED SECRETARY'S VISIT PROVIDED CLEAR EVIDENCE OF "MATURE PARTNERSHIP" WHICH WE WISH TO FOSTER. VENEZUELAN WERE GRACIOUS HOSTS AND WERE HAPPY TO RECEIVE SECRETARY ON THEIR SOIL EVEN FOR SO BRIEF A VISIT. FROM PUBLIC AFFAIRS STANDPOINT THE VISIT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL, IN THAT SECRETARY AND MRS. ROGERS RECEIVED EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE (EXCEPT, AS PREDICTABLE, FROM THE LEFTIST MEDIA) (CARACAS 4225). SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WERE TIGHT BUT NOT OVERWHELMING, AND THE STUDENT DISTURBANCES IN CARACAS DID NOT HAVE ANY APPRECIABLE ADVERSE EFFECTS HERE.

DEVINE

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